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Bny Lehman
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1747

A COPY of a LETTER from *Quebeck* in *Canada*, to a Pr--c M---r in *France*, dated *October* 11, 1747.

GREAT SIR,

BEING reſident for ſome Years paſt in this remote Part of the World, and my chief Employ being to viſit the ſeveral Nations of *Indians*, in order to eſtabliſh them in the *Catholic* Religion, which makes them loyal Subjects to his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, our royal Maſter; and, agreeable to your Inſtructions, great Sir, I have taken Pains to ſettle a Correſpondence with ſome of our Friends among the Enemy, who have given me a large Account of the ſeveral Provinces, Cities, Towns, and Villages, along the Sea-Coaſt, *from South-Carolina to Newfound-Land*. A particular Information would be incredible to you in *France*, that in one Century ſhould ſpring out of a barren Wilderneſs ſuch a Number of fine large Cities, Towns, and Villages, peopled in ſo prodigious a Manner, as to amount to many hundred thouſand Inhabitants; and their Trade in Navigation is ſo ſurprizingly large, that it will ſurmount your Belief; when I tell you, That their Shipping, large and ſmall, is ſo numerous, as to amount to ſeveral thouſand Sail, that they even cover the Seas, and carry on Trade to almoſt all Parts of the World: And by the beſt and moſt authentic Accounts I have received, the Privateers fitted out of *North-America*, viz. *Boſton*, *Rhode-Iſland*, *New-York*, and the ſeveral Sea-Port Towns, did us more Damage this War, by diſtreſſing our Trade, and taking our Treaſures coming from our Sugar-Plantations, than all the *Engliſh* Men of War in the *American* Seas. The Privateers were ſo numerous, and of ſuch Force, from twenty to thirty Guns, that they would block up our Harbours, and take a Fleet of Ships at once, richly laden with Plantation Produce, beſides Silver and Gold in Abundance. The Inhabitants of *North-America* have the Spirit and Blood of old *Oliver Cromwell*; they are of the Race of the *Puritans* that fled into *New-England* in the Time of Perſecution, and they maintain an implacable Hatred againſt the *Romiſh* Religion; and their Reſolution and undaunted Courage is ſuch, that whatever they undertake by Sea or Land againſt us, they proſecute with ſuch Violence, that we dread one Thouſand of them more than five thouſand hired Soldiers from *Old England*: Witneſs that unparallel'd Conqueſt of our *Cape Breton*; ſuch a Fortreſs as did not fear all the World! But, *Oliver-like*, they ſaid, *They could take it, and they would take it, and* (to the Surprize and Wonder of *all* the World) *they did take it!* They are as bold as Lions, and carry all before them. Their Principles are ſuch, they have no Dread in Battle: They are taught they ſhall not die a Moment before their Time; ſo that if ten thouſand Cannons are pointed at them, they regard it not. They ſeem to be like the *Iſraelites* of Old; one Thouſand will put ten Thouſand to Flight: And we believe in *Canada*, if twenty thouſand Troops had come from *Old England*, they never would have taken that Fortreſs: For you know, great Sir, ſuch an Armament is never fitted out in *England*, but great Part of the Officers are *Scotch* and *Iriſh*, and many of them of our Religion; but that is a Secret, and the major Part are ſeldom of any Religion; and as Money is what they are after, a ſufficient Number of our *Louis d'Ores* will at any Time furniſh them with a tolerable Excuſe to raiſe a Siege, and withdraw. What a fine Joke did our young Hero put upon General *Cope's* Army in *Scotland*, by our taking Care before hand to have ſome of our hearty Friends in Office in that Army: But the Fate of our Friends in *Scotland* was, that the Duke had a Number of new Troops raiſed by ſome *Proteſtant* Noblemen, who filled up their Regiments with ſuch Officers and Soldiers, that it was not in our Power to bribe, nor had we any Time to corrupt them; that the Duke's Army was like thoſe *New-England Puritans*, who have their Religion ſo much at Heart, that to deſtroy our holy *Catholic* Church, is their Glory; and I believe, better Subjects to a *Proteſtant* Prince, is not to be found on the Globe; they ſeem to be united as one Man againſt us, except a Number of *Scotch* and *Iriſh*, that fled over to *New-England*, that are of our Religion, and ſome lately, upon that fatal Battle at *Culloden*; and I underſtand, ſome of the latter were Officers in Prince *Charles's* Army, and I truſt our true Friends will promote them. Now, great Sir, I will firſt inform you of our preſent Circumſtances in *Canada*; and then the Reaſon *New-England* ſo ſurprizingly exceeds us in Number of Men, Shipping, Trade, *&c.* and then a Method to weaken and

and impoverish them, and advance ourselves upon their Ruin. As to the Inhabitants of *Canada*, our principal Men are Officers and Factors: The Officers are Spiritual and Military: We of the Spiritual Order, you know, great Sir, will have the Fat of the Land at Home or Abroad; the Civil and Military are yearly paid their several Salaries, with Cash sent from our Royal Master, with which they make a considerable Figure; the Planters and Artificers are generally very poor, seldom having any Money but when the Soldiers are paid off, and then they get a few Livres, but are immediately obliged to go and pay it to the Factors, who trusted them for some coarse Cloathing, and the Factors send the Cash to *France* again, in order for a new Supply of Goods; and the poor Creatures seldom handle a Livre more, until the Soldiers are paid off again; and I am bold to say, all our little Farmers and Mechanics are not able to build and fit out a Vessel of any Bigness for a foreign Voyage. If they can own a Fishing-Shallop, they are brave Fellows. And were it not for the Natives, whom, by our extraordinary Pains and Industry, we get and keep in our Interest, we should be soon drove out by these implacable *Olivarians*. But I must now inform you of the true Reason why our Enemies on the Sea-Coast so abundantly surmount us in Men, Shipping, Trade, *&c.* as our Friends inform me: They say, When those *Puritans* first came over to *New-England*, they were distressed, as we now are, for Want of Money, and could not fit out a Ship nor Vessel, no better than our Poor; but, as Necessity is the Mother of Invention, they got into a Method of making Paper Money, and it soon obtained a Currency; so that in a little Time the several Provinces got into the Practice, and furnished the Inhabitants with large Sums at an easy Lay, that in a short Time they were enabled to tear up Trees by the Roots, and to split the Rocks in Pieces, clear their Land, fence it in, plough, sow, reap, and mow, build Houses, Ships and Vessels of all Sorts, load them with Masts, Spars, Boards, Staves, Oil, Bone, Fish, Tar, Turpentine, Iron, Beef, Pork, Butter, Cheese, Wheat, Flour, Rice, Tobacco, Skins, Furs, *&c.* So that in half a Century they covered the Seas with Ships and Vessels, and sent them to foreign Markets, and in Return, over and above what Produce they wanted, they brought vast Quantities of Gold and Silver, and sent that Home to their Mother Country, to pay for what Necessaries they wanted, having no Use for the same, so long as Paper Currency answers for a Medium of Trade. The making Paper Money, I am told, has been of such general Advantage, that they send Home in hard Cash, many hundred Thousand Pounds *per Annum*; and there are very few Poor amongst them. The Farmers and Tradesmen of all Sorts, are jointly concerned with the Merchant, in building and fitting out Ships and Vessels, and in owning and fitting out Privateers this War; so that we need not wonder the Seas were so full of them out of *North-America*, when all the Inhabitants of all Ranks and Degrees are unanimously agreed to serve their King and Country, and distress us; and all by the Help of that pernicious Paper Money, that makes them rich and powerful, able to do Wonders by Sea and Land. I am told, the small petty Colony of *Rhode-Island*, has two hundred Sail of Vessels belonging to it, and had above twenty Sail of Privateers of large Force this War; and if the Governments are suffered to go on making Paper Money, they will drive us out of this Part of the World, without any Help from their Mother Country. And I must tell you, great Sir, if Half the Force that took *Cape Breton*, had come directly to *Quebeck*, we should have surrendered; for our chief Concern was about packing up our All, and vamping off, having a Rumour of their coming; and we dreaded these *Puritans*, knowing there were none of our Religion amongst them; and they were not to be bribed with *Louis d'Ores*, as the *European* Officers often are.

But the Scheme, I propose, great Sir, is, I have certain Information, that great Numbers of the rich Merchants have a Desire to have a final Stop put to Paper Money, by reason the Planters and Mechanics run so much into Trade and Navigation, that they cannot endure their Fellow-Functioners should grow rich by the same Advantage as they got their Estates by. It seems most of the rich Merchants in the several Governments were originally mean Farmers and Tradesmen, as Shoemakers, Taylors, Coppersmiths, Carpenters, and the like. But what need we care what they were, or what they are, if we can accomplish our Ends by their Help. And to bring this about, great Sir, we must employ our Friends at *London* and elsewhere, and advise them to make our *Scotch* Friends in the several Towns in *New-England* popular, by putting them into Business, as Masters of Ships, and by consigning large Quantities of Goods to others, which will make them popular and powerful; so that they may get into Favour with such Merchants as are against Paper Money, and then, by any Art or Craft, get a Number of them to sign a Petition to go Home to the Parliament of *Great-Britain*, in order, if possible, to put a

Stop

Stop to the Currency; and if ſuch a Petition ſhould come to *London*, ſigned as before mentioned, you muſt enjoin our true Friends in and about *London*, to ſpare no Pains nor Money to get the Petition to paſs; and if we bring this Scheme about, and ſtop a Paper Currency, I am bold to ſay, inſtead of their having a hundred large Privateers out of *North-America*, it will be a Wonder if they have Twenty; for I am told, the Farmers and Tradeſmen have put their Land in Pledge for the Paper Money they fit out ſo many Veſſels with; and the Merchants that have got the Paper Money in their Hands for the *European* Goods, deſign, as ſoon as ever it is ſtopped, and to be called in, to take the Lands that are in Pledge, from all the common People; ſo that all the lower Claſs will become like our Poor, to be well off to own a Fiſhing-Shallop. I would adviſe our *Scotch* Friends, as ſoon as the Paper Money is ſtopp'd, and to be called in, to collect all that they poſſibly can of that which is outſtanding; and by this Method they will come in for a large Share of Lands, and ſo become little Lairds; and, it may be, in Half a Century we may have their ſeveral Clans to aſſiſt us, as we have in the Highlands. The next Method I propoſe, is to reduce the richeſt Merchants among them, and oblige them to leſſen their Trade; and that is, great Sir, you muſt write to our ſeveral rich Planters at our Sugar Iſlands, and adviſe them to employ a Number of our polite *Frenchmen*, and ſend them into the ſeveral Sea-Port Towns on the Continent, *viz. Boſton*, *Rhode-Iſland*, *New-York*, *Philadelphia*, and where-ever we can carry on Trade; and theſe Men muſt get into Favour with ſome conſiderable Merchant in each Town, to furniſh them with a ſufficient Number of Veſſels, in order to bring over our Produce, ſuch as Rum, Sugar, Molaſſes; in ſhort, we muſt wink and connive at any of our Produce, to carry on our Scheme; but let Rum be the chief Article, for by our Manufacturing that, we ſhall make double Profit, and deprive our Enemies of that Advantage. And thoſe Men thus employed, muſt impower the *Engliſh* Merchants to ſell our Produce for them, who will readily do it for Part of the Gain, and, in order to procure Silver and Gold: For our Planters muſt not take any Thing in Return but Caſh; and by this Method we may procure all the hard Money that is ſtirring amongſt them. For when Paper Money is once ſtopp'd, there can be no Medium of Trade; and their Trade will be ſo reduced, that there will be but little of that; and thoſe *Engliſh* Traders that are not concerned with our Friends, will ſoon have no Uſe for their Veſſels; and being often obliged to ſell at a low Price, our Friends, muſt be employed to buy them as Opportunity offers. If this Method, great Sir, is induſtriouſly and faithfully purſued, and carried on, we ſhall unavoidably impoveriſh, diſtreſs, and confound them: All the lower Claſs will no more be able to pay for Cloathing from their Mother Country, but muſt be contented to live as they did of Old, to wander about in Sheep-Skins and Goat-Skins, and to dwell in Caves and Dens of the Earth; and thoſe of the higheſt Claſs will be obliged to leſſen their Trade, ſell their Veſſels, and no more be able to ſend Home to their Mother Country ſuch Quantities of Silver and Gold. Then no more *New-England* Invaſions, no more beating down our Walls at *Cape Breton*; and when we have another War, we ſhall not only have their Money, but their Veſſels; and their Men, being poor, muſt ſeek Shelter in ſome foreign Land.

I conclude,

GREAT SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

and a faithful Subject to His moſt Chriſtian Majeſty,

our Royal Maſter,

Mc---O---Ne---l,

Canada Letters
&
New England
papers